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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 10/743,734 | 12/24/2003 | Yuji Iwata | 247154US2 | 9099 |
| 22850 | 7590 | 10/20/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| C. IRVIN MCCLELLAND OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | STAFIRA, MICHAEL PATRICK | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | 2877 |

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/743,734 | IWATA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Michael P. Stafira | 2877 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Keller et al. (503).

Claim 20

Keller et al. (503) discloses a multiwell (Fig. 1, Ref. 22), wherein the detection chip is configured to be detachable (Col. 3, lines 4-7) relative to an optical unit unitarily including a light supply means (Fig. 1, Ref. 10) and a light detection means (Fig. 1, Ref. 28); and a light path (See dotted lines in Fig. 1) in the detection chip charged with a first material (Fig. 1, Ref. 12) and another portion in the detection chip charged with a second material (Fig. 1, Ref. 19) having a different refractive index from the first material (Col. 3, lines 4-10).

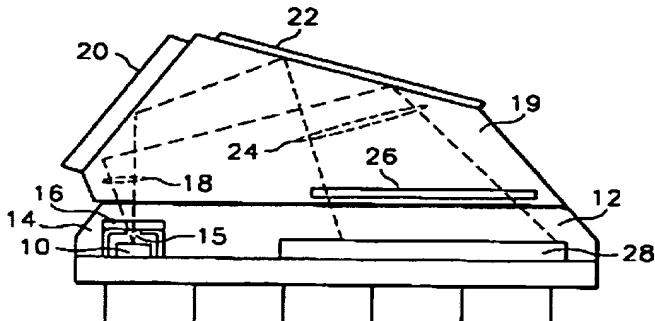


FIG. 1

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-19 are allowed over the prior art of record.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a surface plasmon sensor having a plurality of reflective surfaces provided at respective optical paths from the light supply means to the light detection means, the reflective surfaces being arranged opposing to the respective surface plasmon resonance detection surfaces; a wave formed multiwell formed with the surface plasmon resonance detection surfaces and the reflective surfaces, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 1. Claims 2-8, 16, 17 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 1.

Regarding claim 9, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a surface plasmon resonance measurement device having a plurality of reflective surfaces provided at respective optical paths from the light supply means to the light detection means, the reflective surfaces being arranged opposing to the respective surface plasmon resonance detection; a wave formed multiwell formed with the surface plasmon resonance detection surfaces and the reflective

surfaces, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 9. Claims 10-15, 18, 19 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 9.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed July 24, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant takes the position on page 8-9 of the Remarks/Arguments that the reference of Keller that the housing is not in the detection chip and therefore, does not disclose a light path in the detection path in the detection chip charged with a second material having a different refractive index from the first material. The examiner takes the position that the reference of Keller shows the claimed invention, wherein the light path in Keller is disclosed by the dotted lines in figure 1. The first material being the base housing 12 made of an optical material, which transmits radiation and the second material being the detachable optical housing 19 made of a material different or a same material as the base housing 12. It is inherent in the optics art that two different materials are going to refract light different than air, therefore if the housing of 12 and 19 are made of a different material then the refractive index will be different. It is therefore concluded the reference of Keller reads on the claimed limitations.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Stafira whose telephone number is 571-272-2430. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/10 Schedule Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Toatley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2877

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Michael P. Stafira
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2877

October 2, 2006